

REMARKS

Claims 16-32 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 16-25, 27, and 29-32 are currently amended, Claim 26 is canceled without prejudice, and Claim 28 remains unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 20-23 and 26-30 include allowable subject matter.

Claims 16, 26, and 27 are objected to for informalities that allegedly render the claims indefinite. Claim 16 has been amended to correct the informality. Claim 26 has been canceled, rendering the objection moot. Claim 27 has been amended to depend from independent Claim 16, removing the informality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objections of Claims 16 and 27.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 16-18, 24, 25, and 32 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 7,121,675 (Ter-Hovhannisian) in view of United States Patent No. 7,107,779 (Avenwedde). Claim 19 was rejected as being unpatentable over Ter-Hovhannisian and Avenwedde in view of United States Patent No. 6,478,445 (Lange). Claim 31 was rejected as being unpatentable over Ter-Hovhannisian and Avenwedde in view of United States Published Patent Application No. 2003/0122455 (Caldwell).

Independent Claim 16 has been rewritten to include the limitations of allowable Claim 26. Therefore, independent Claim 16 is allowable. Dependent Claims 17-25 and 27-32 depend from independent Claim 16 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 16-25 and 27-32 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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